

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2802

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0334

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 30188; (B) LUSAKA 285

1. GRATEFUL INDEED FOR YOUR COURTESY IN ALLOTING TIME TO SEE GOVERNOR KUWANI DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO US IN SEARCH OF UNDERSTANDING AND HELP WITH ZAMBIA'S DEPRESSED ECONOMIC STATE. YOUR OFFER TO MEET KUWANI MENTIONED TO MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MULEMBA) WHO FIRST FLOATED IDEA OF US-ZAMBIAN EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS ON COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WHO PLEASED WITH US RESPONSE; ALSO TO PERSON IN OFFICE OF MINISTER OF FINANCE WHO URGED WASHINGTON ENCOUNTER (REF B). LATTER OFFICE REMINDED THAT PERM SECY FRANCIS WALUSIKU OUTRANKS KUWANI BECAUSE MINISTRY OF FINANCE CONTROLS CENTRAL BANK'S OPERATIONS AND EXTERNAL BORROWING ACTIVITIES. WALUSIKU DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA DELAYED BUT HE SHOULD BE IN WASHINGTON NOW CONSULTING WITH IMF.

2. THUS, IT NOT TOO LATE, INVITATION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND GOVERNOR
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OF CENTRAL BANK KUWANI IN THAT PROTOCOL ORDER.

3. COMMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, KUWANI IS OLD PRO AT MANAGING ZAMBIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND DEALINGS WITH FOREIGN BANKS AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING EXIM, HAVING BEEN IN HIS JOB FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND HAVING TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY. HE TENDS TO BE SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL OF US BUT CAN BE REASONABLE IF HIS EMOTIONS UNDER CONTROL. WALUSIKU IS VERY NEW IN HIS JOB, PLEASED WITH HIMSELF AND A BIT POMPOUS EVEN THOUGH HIS EXPERIENCE LIMITED ALONGSIDE KUWANI. HOWEVER HE APPARENTLY IS PERSONAL CHOICE OF NEW FINANCE MINISTER MWANANSHIKU, WHEN HE MOVED UP AND OUT OF PERM SECY JOB, AND WALUSIKU MOVED OVER FROM UNDERSECRETARY OF FINANCE. ONE MUST THEREFORE ASSUME WALUSIKU HAS CAPACITY TO GROW INTO HIS NEW AND IMPORTANT JOB UNDER TECHNICALLY COMPETENT MWANANSHIKU.
WILKOWSKI

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